

SAILING RACES

The sport of sailing has many variations. Its terminology can seem confusing as well as the variety of racing boats. Races vary in importance, from world-wide to local clubs. And the history of racing can be traced back to the clipper ships racing to get a cargo first to port.



This exhibit's goal is to be informative to non-sailors and still provide interest to anyone who has enjoyed the experience of trying to beat all boats to the finish. A brief early history is important to understand the development of this sport. Covering sailboat racing terminology, sail types and classes, before most races is best to understanding the sport of sailing.

The first organized sailing races go back to the oldest yacht clubs of Ireland and England in the 1700's. A competitive sailing race was not commemorated on a stamp until the 1928 Netherlands Olympic stamp. The Olympics in the next thirty years dominated sail racing issues. With the introduction of Tall Ship Races another broad area of stamps and cancels could be included. I have intentionally limited the coverage in these two categories, so that the theme of this exhibit will be broader and have balance.

Philatelic information is given in *italic* usually below the item.